Lecture 7

Aspect-orientation (AO*)

A new paradigm in Software Engineering

Last lecture and tutorial …

Software Quality Measurements

- We have shown the use of quality measurements to monitor the progress of software development
- The development/restructuring (maintenance) activities (refactoring, tuning, adding features) can be guided by the metrics of softgoals

Today …

On Aspect Orientation

- Today we explain the paradigm of aspect-orientation
  1. Concepts: What are aspects?
  2. Practices: Aspect-orientation at large
     - AOP: Aspect-oriented programming
     - AOSD: Aspect-oriented software development
     - *AORE: Aspect-oriented requirements engineering*
     - AOSR: Aspect-oriented software reuse (probably next lecture)
  3. A case study of AORE
  4. Summary

1. What are aspects?

1. Some design principles
   - Divide and conquer: problem solving/design principle
   - Modularization: high cohesion/low coupling
     Separation of concerns
   - DRY: Don't Repeat Yourself
     Increase the fan-in
2. Previous paradigms
   - 70s – 80s:
     Structured programming (Goto's considered harmful) =>
     Structured Analysis, Structured Design
   - 80s – 90s:
     Object-oriented programming (OOP) =>
     OOA/OOD => UML
3. Why another paradigm ?
   - Since late 90s …
     Separation of the *crosscutting* concerns
4. What are aspects?
   – Modularizing the crosscutting concerns

1.1 Some design principles

Structured programming

- What is structured program?
  - A program has no more GOTO's
  - Only three kinds of structure prevails
    - Sequential
    - If-then-else
    - Loops

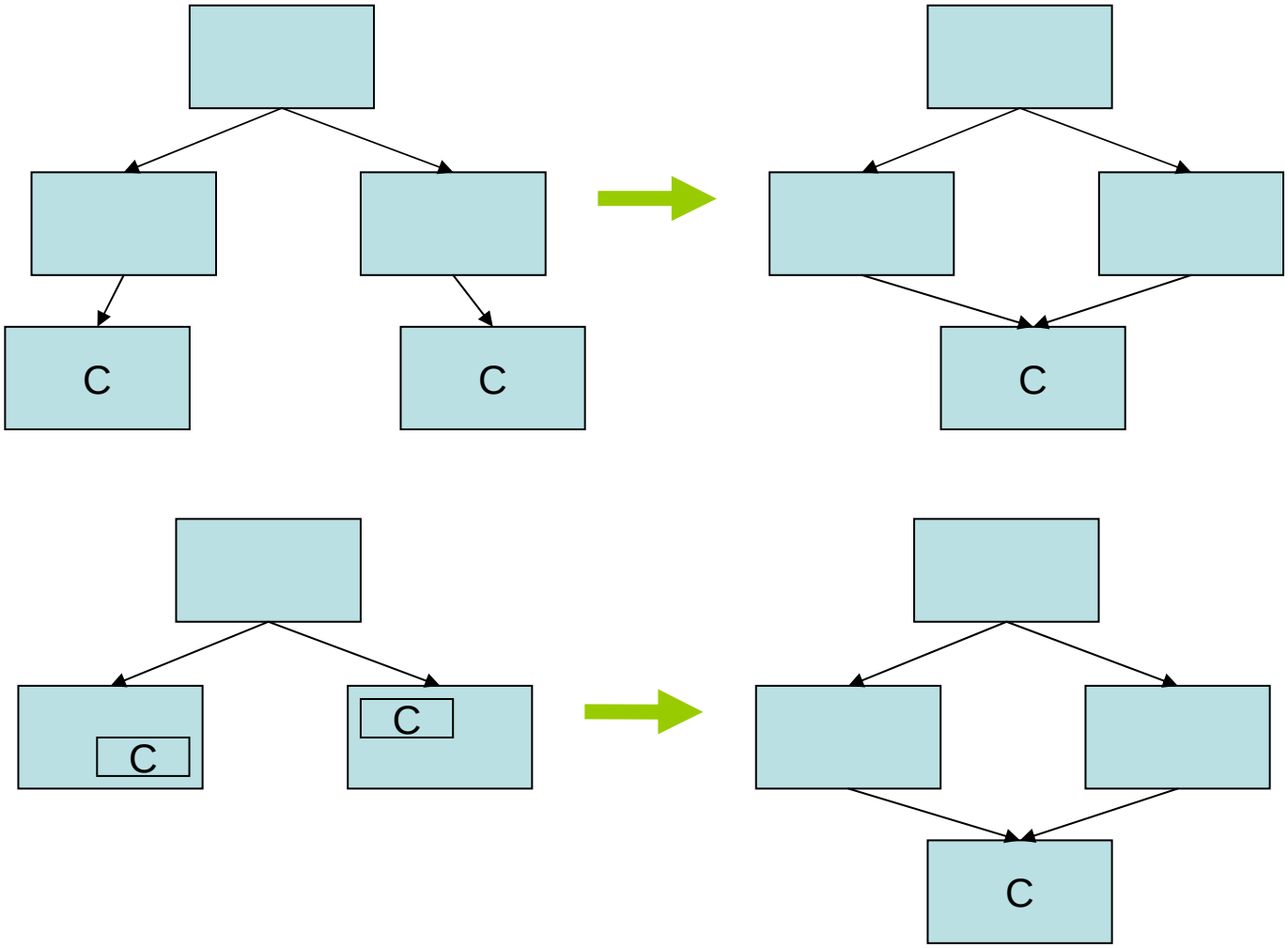
  [Dijkstra: Goto considered harmful]
  - In other words, every statement block has single-entry, single-exit as Hammock Graph

  [Weiser: Program slicing]
- "*Whenever possible, we wish to maximize **fan-in** during the design process. Fan-in is the raison d'être of modularity. Each instance of multiple fan-in means that some duplicate code has been avoided*."
  raison d'être: grounds for existence (http://www.french-linguistics.co.uk/dictionary/)

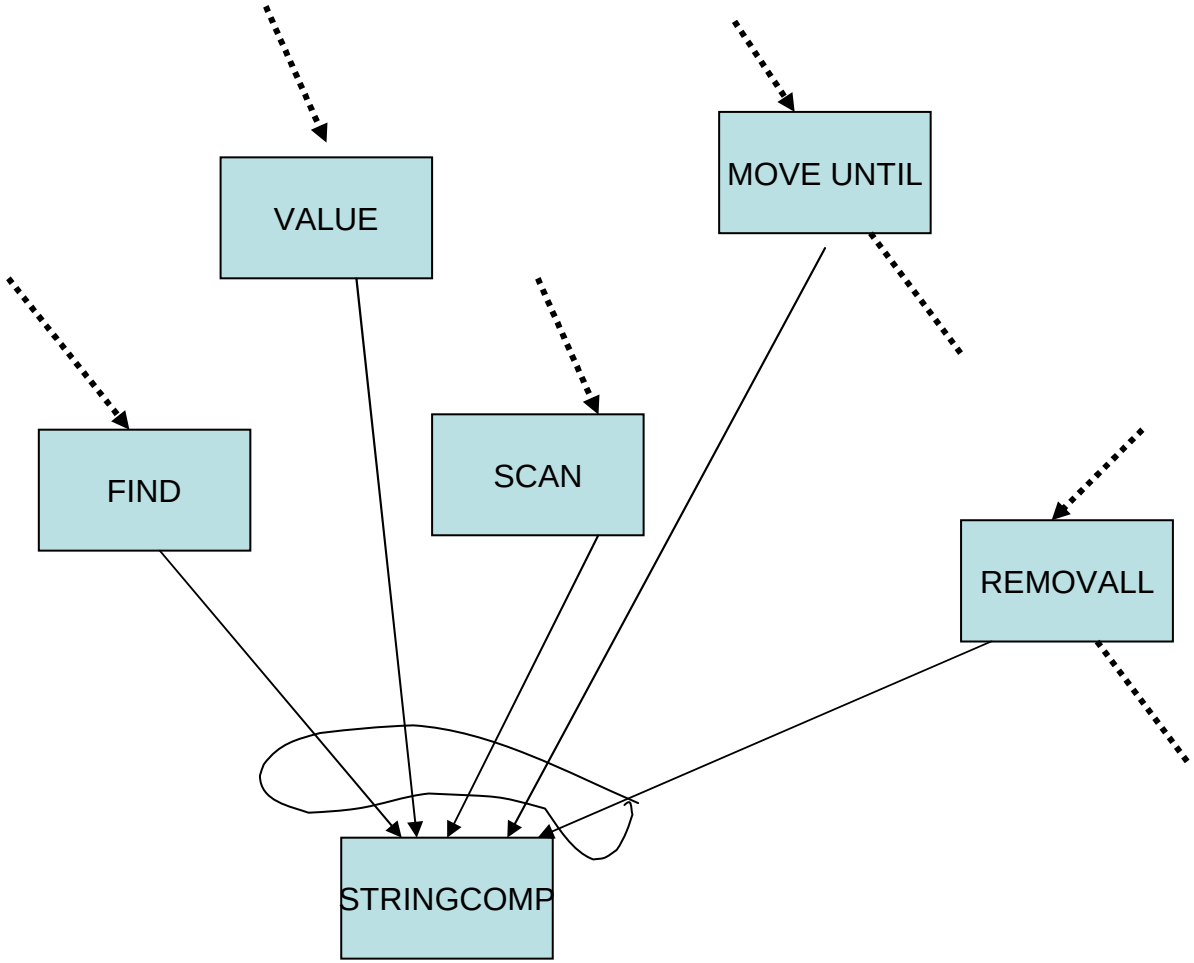
  [Yourdon & Constantine79] Structured Design (pg. 172, see also http://wwwpa.win.tue.nl/wstomv/quotes/structured-design.html)

  [parnas: Modularization, information hiding]

(1) A decomposition hierarchy from abstract to concrete:
Divide and Conquer, Structured Design;
(2) Don't Repeat Yourself, Factoring / Refactoring …



Example



Yourdon & Constantine, SD, pg.168

Object-oriented programming

- Everything is an object (Smalltalk)
- Information hiding / Encapsulation: object groups related data and the operations on the data into a module
- Object has structural relationships:
  - inheritance: generalization / specialization: isA/instanceOf
  - aggregation : hasA / isPartOf
  - associations: 1-to-many, 1-to-1, many-to-many
- In the end, the structurally-related objects are *packaged* into components

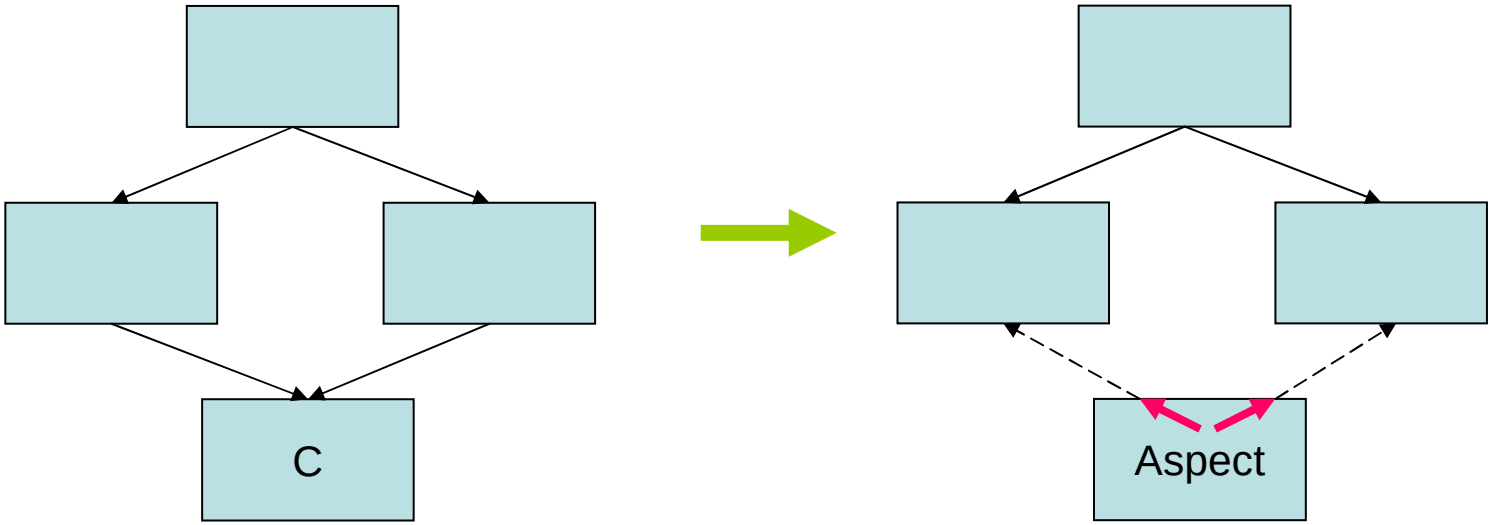
1.2 Aspect-orientation

- Component language
  (any structured or OO language, even corresponding design and requirements specification)
- What are crosscutting concerns?
- An aspect language
  - What are joinpoints?
  - What are pointcuts?
  - What are advices?
- A weaving mechanism

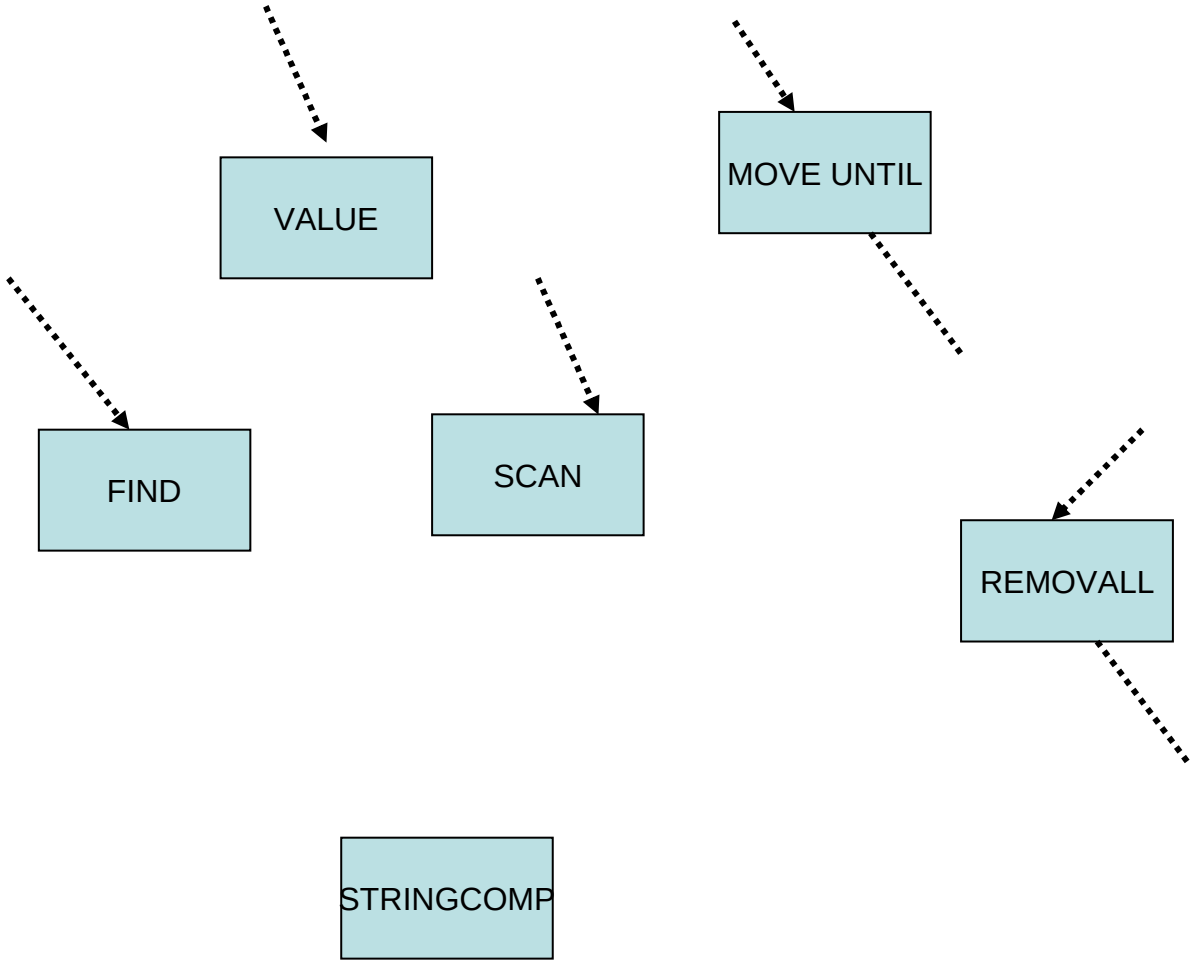
Aspect concepts

- Concepts: cross-cutting, component, aspect, join points, weaving

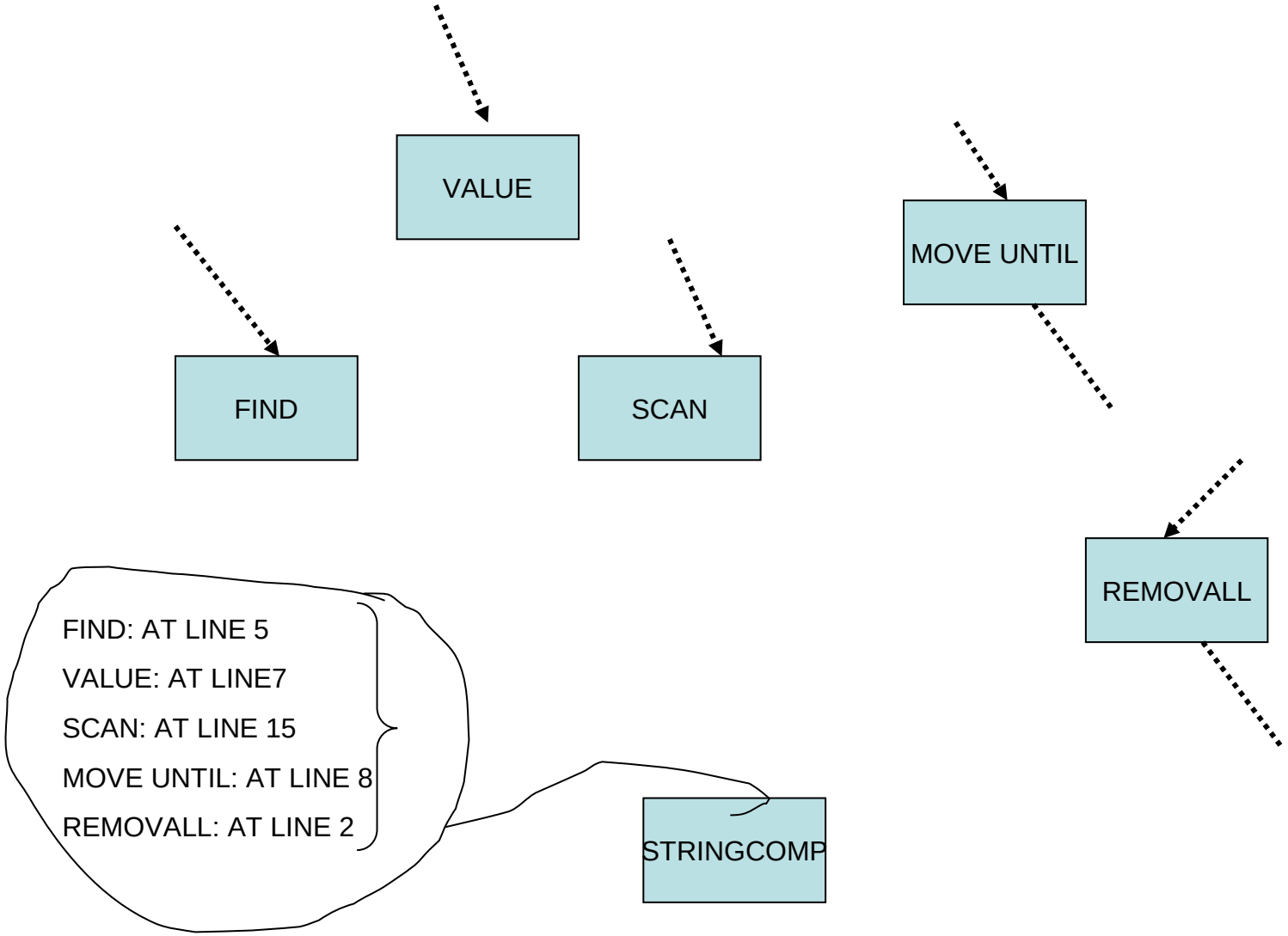
AOP hides the join points



AOP (THE MAGIC)



AOP (NOT REALLY MAGIC)



AOP example

ApplicationSession

StandardSession

SessionInterceptor

StandardManager

StandardSessionManager

ServerSession

ServerSessionManager

Stan Wagon's bike

My square-wheel bike, on permanent display at Macalester College. This construction, believe it or not, earned me an entry in "Ripley's Believe It or Not"; beats standing in a block of ice for three days or growing three-foot long fingernails.

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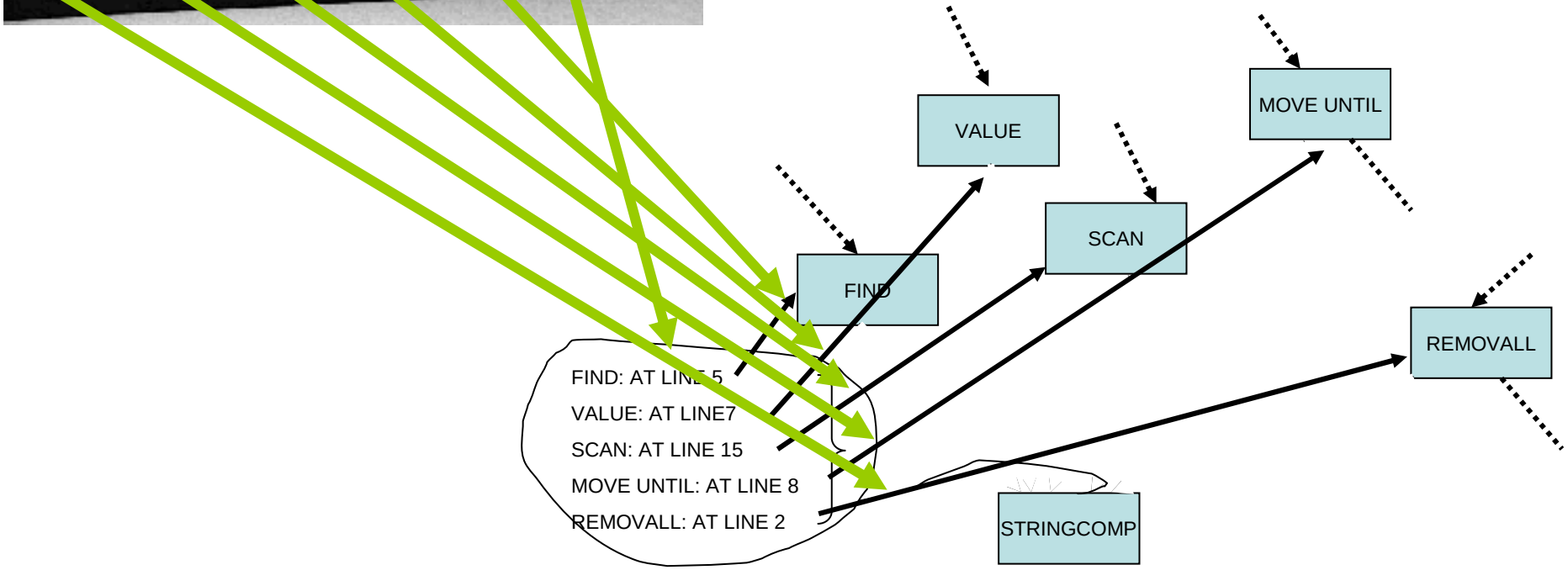
http://www.stanwagon.com

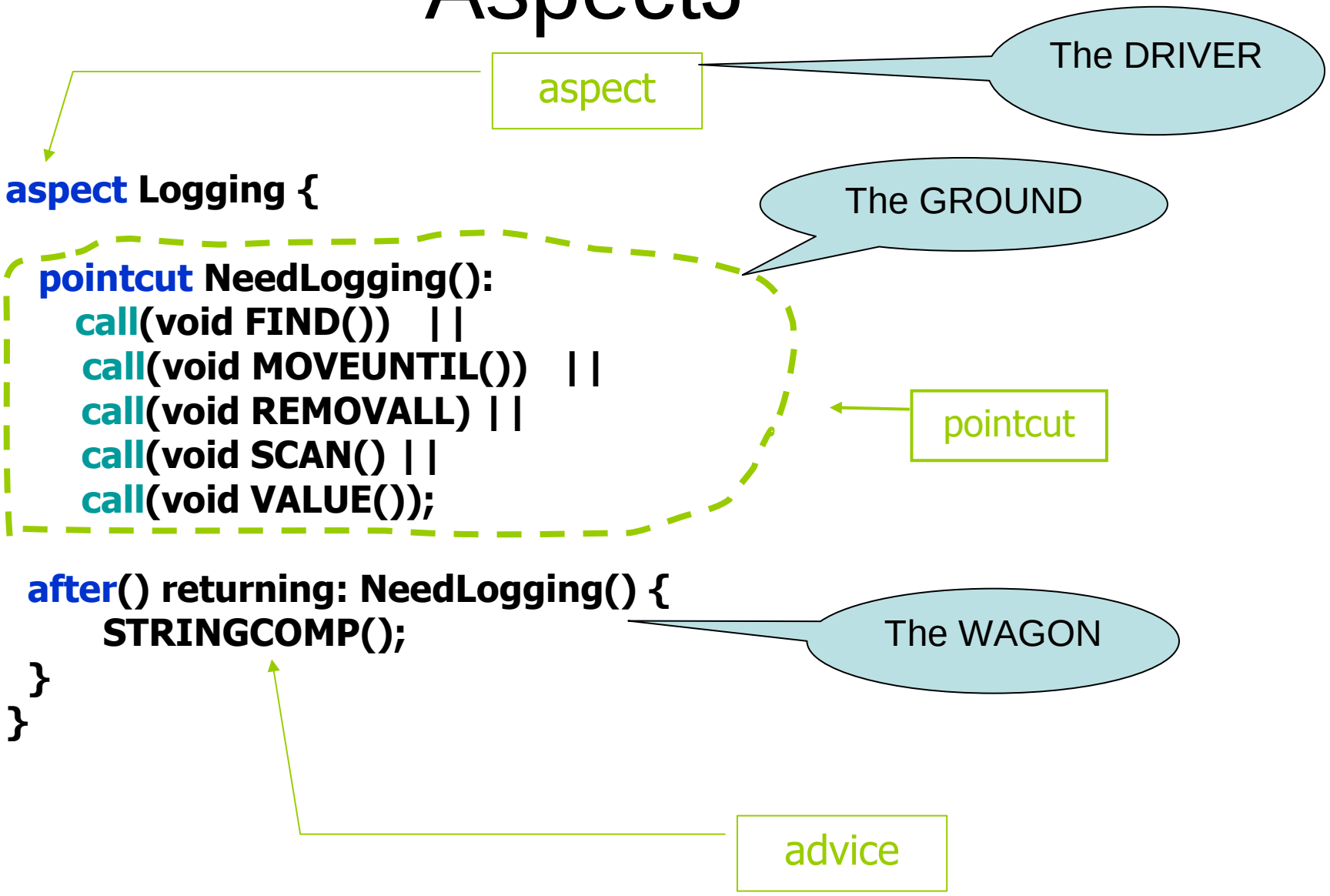
Stan Wagon (wagon@macalester.edu), Prof. of Mathematics and Computer Science, Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota

The Weaver



Yourdon & Constantine, SD, pg.168

AspectJ


aspect
The DRIVER
aspect Logging {
The GROUND
pointcut NeedLogging():
call(void FIND()) ||
call(void MOVEUNTIL()) ||
call(void REMOVALL) ||
call(void SCAN() ||
call(void VALUE());
pointcut
after() returning: NeedLogging() {
STRINGCOMP();
The WAGON
}
}
advice

2.1 Aspect-oriented Programming

- It permeates into almost every popular high-level programming languages
- Java

  Hyper/J, *AspectJ*, *AJDT*, *JBoss*
- C/C++/C#

  AspectC/C++, *C#*
- PHP

  AOPHP, *AspectPHP*

  … and many many more: see AOSD.NET

Every AOP mechanism has to support

- Definition and representation of aspects
  - Definition of Advices in the component language
  - Definition of Joinpoints in regular expressions
    - *Optionally, they can introduce new data members, changing the structures of components*
  - *Representation: New keywords, New directives, XML, but never change the code of components directly*
- Implementing a weaver
  - As preprocessor => generates woven components in the component language (AspectC, AOPHP)
  - As instrumenting compiler => generates woven components in the bytecode for the languages supporting reflection (AspectJ)
  - As interpretator => interpreting the woven code on-the-fly (AspectPHP)

2. Aspect-orientation at large

2.2 Aspect-Oriented SD

- AO includes the whole lifecycle of SE
  - http://www.aosd.net
- There is a conference AOSD
- There are workshops on Early Aspects at AOSD, OOPSLA, ICSE
- Hot topics related to all other SD technologies
  - Aspect-oriented Refactoring
  - Aspect Mining
  - Aspect-oriented Debugging
  - Aspect-oriented Testing
  - Aspect-oriented Slicing
  - Aspect-oriented Model Checking

…

2. Aspect-orientation at large

2.3 Aspect-Oriented RE

- Lessons learnt from success stories
  - SP => SA
  - OOP => OOA
  - Why not AOP => AOA?
    - Separation of crosscutting concerns earlier
    - Avoid duplication as early as possible
    - Identify aspects before mining them from code
- Discover aspects in the early requriements
  - From structured requirement documents
  - From unstructured (textual) documents
- Verify discovered (candidate) aspects in AOP

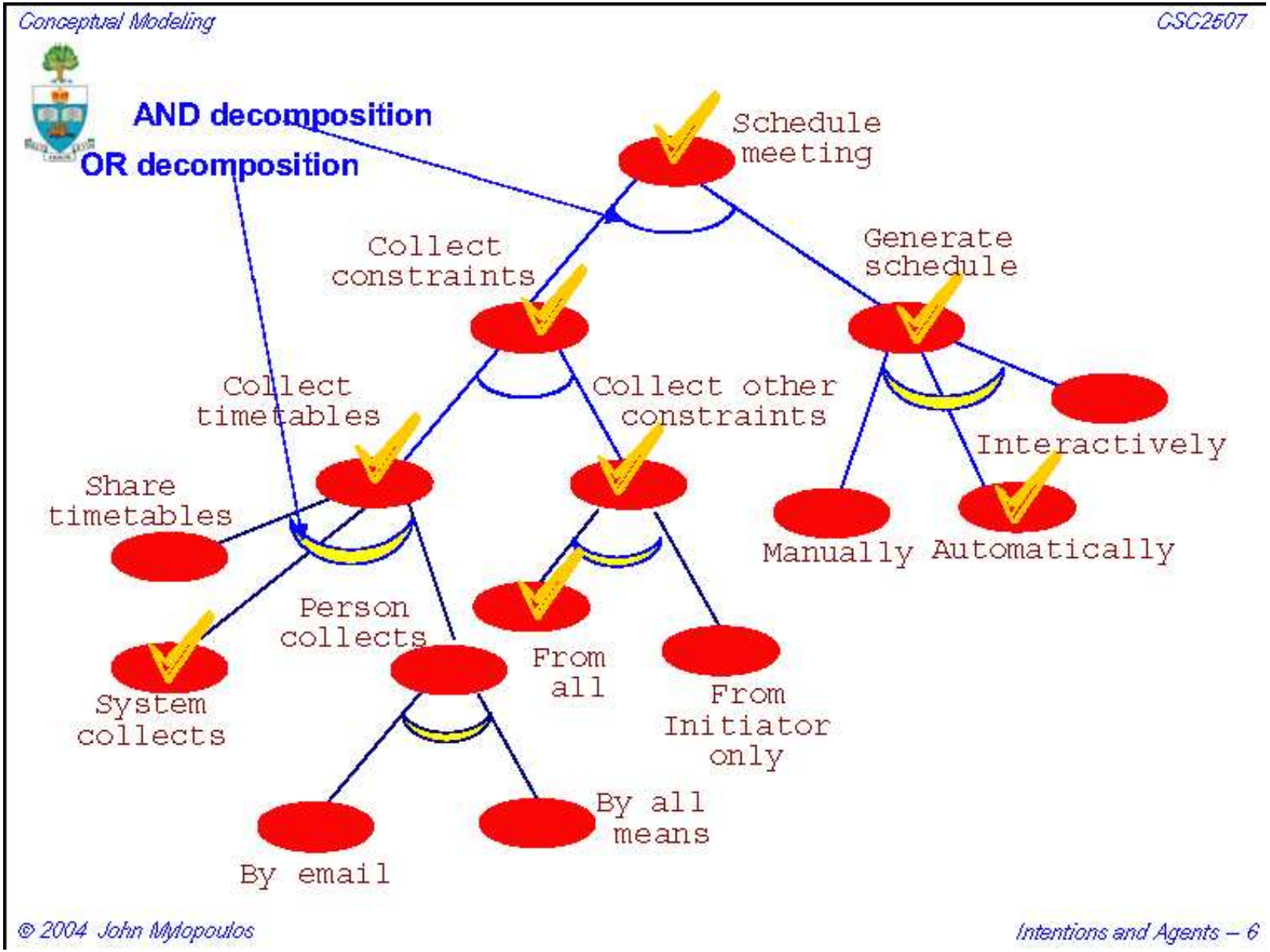
3. A Case Study on AORE

1. Quickly go through goal-oriented requirements engineering basics
2. A requirements engineering process to elicit early aspects (goal aspects)
3. A reverse engineering exercise to identify candidate aspects (code aspects)
4. Linking goal aspects with code aspects

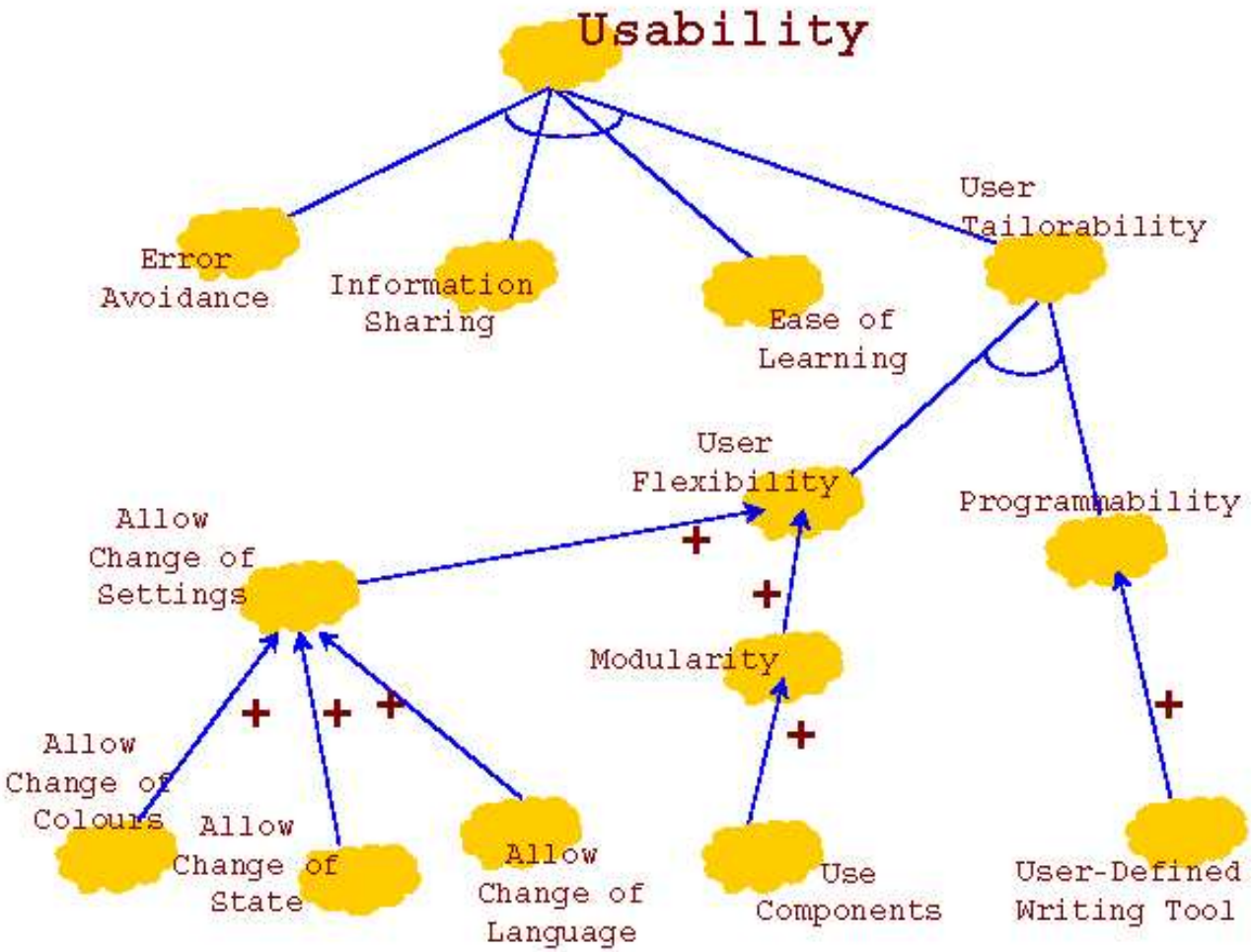
3.1 Requirements Goal Models

- A goal model is an intentional model
- A goal can be decomposed into AND or OR subgoals
- A goal model has both hard and soft goals
  - A hard goal can be either satisfied or denied
  - A soft goal is partially satisfied => *satisficed*
- Soft goal uses HELP (+), HURT (-), MAKE (++) or BREAK (--) correlations to show partial satisfaction (satisfice) from a set of subgoals

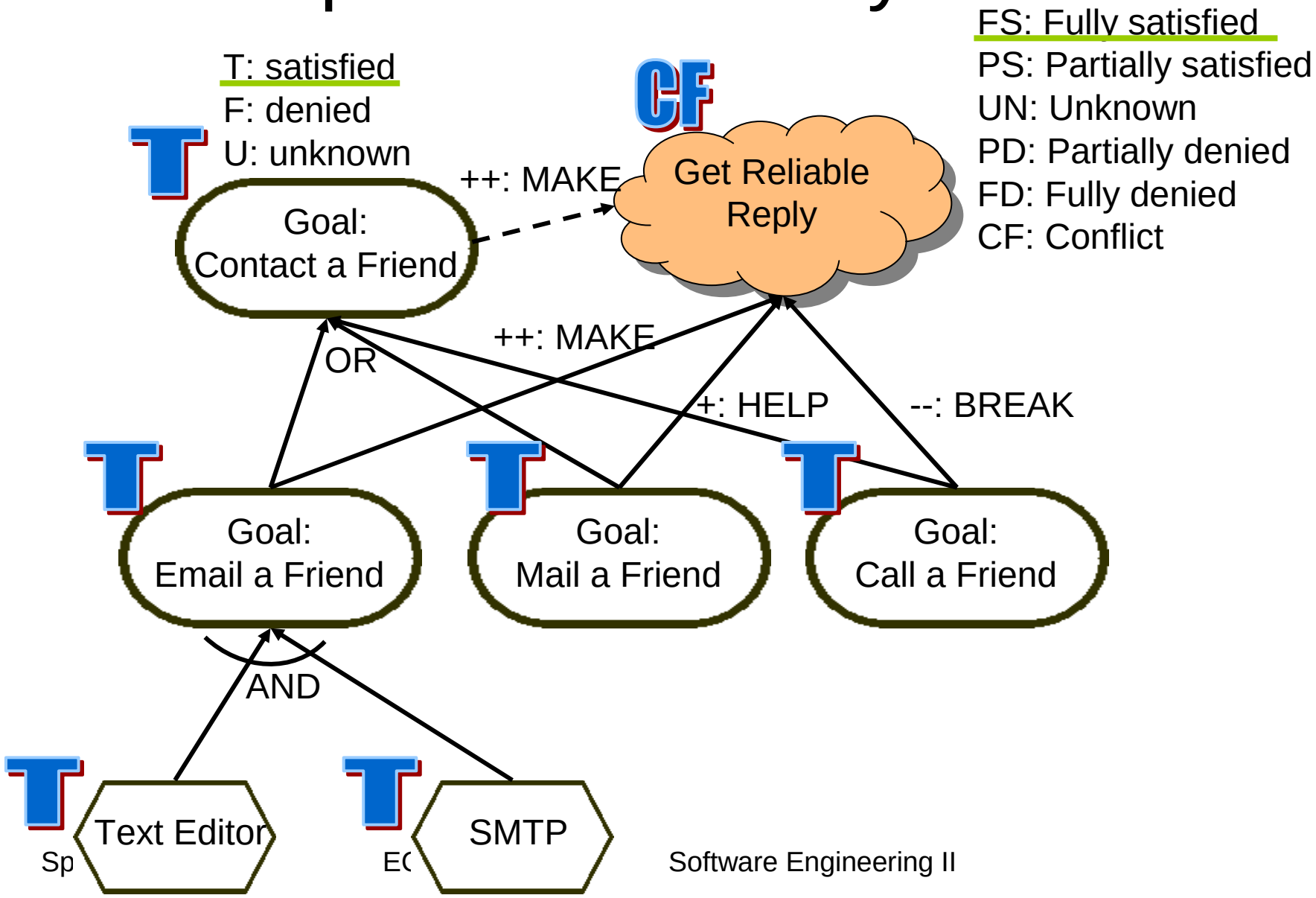
3.1.1 Hard goal model

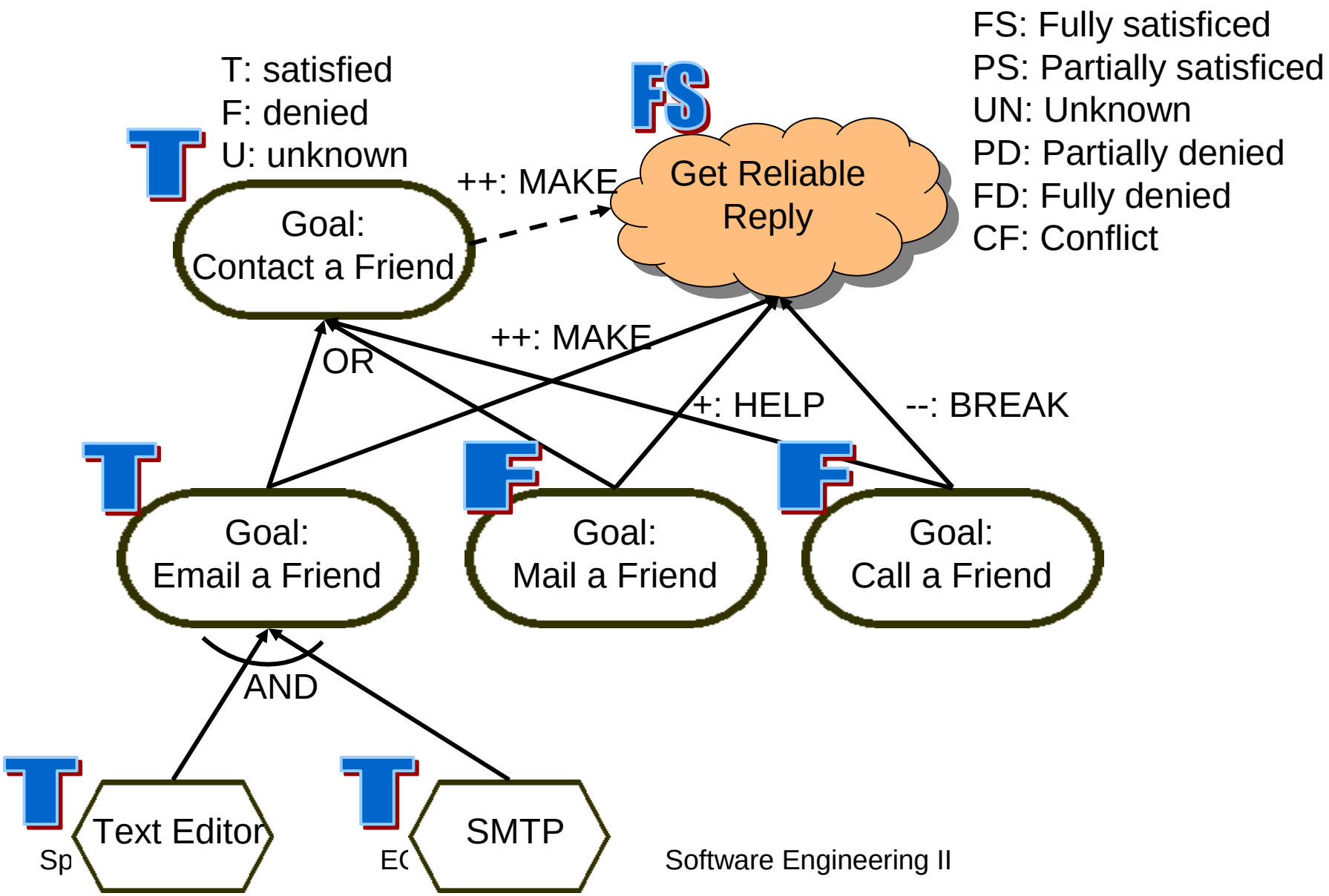


3.1.2 Soft goal model



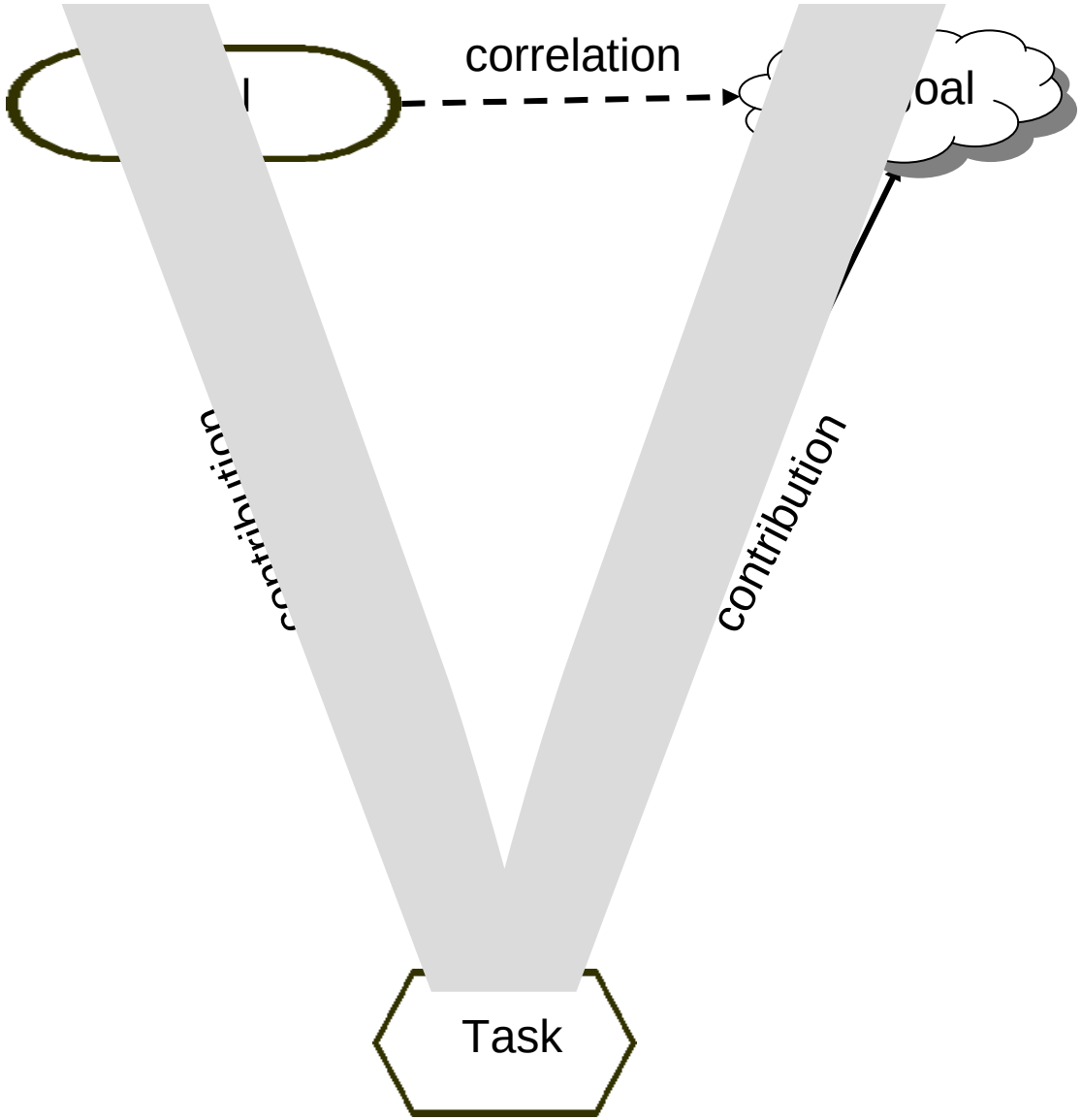
3.1.3 Goal-Oriented Requirements Analysis




T: satisfied
F: denied
U: unknown
FS: Fully satisficed
PS: Partially satisficed
UN: Unknown
PD: Partially denied
FD: Fully denied
CF: Conflict
FS
Get Reliable Reply
++: MAKE
Goal: Contact a Friend
++: MAKE
OR
+: HELP
--: BREAK
Goal: Email a Friend
Goal: Mail a Friend
Goal: Call a Friend
AND
Text Editor
SMTP

3.1.4 V-graph

In order to reason about interplay of functional and non-functional requirements, we create a particular type of goal model, called *V-graph*


correlation
oal
contribution
contribution
Task

3.2 The Process

- *Start from root-level goals and soft goals, correlate and decompose them into a V-graph*
- *A goal analysis based on the label propagation algorithm is used to check for:*
  - *Conflicts*
  - *Inconsistencies*
  - *Denial of any goal or soft goals*
- *After resolving the problems, a proper V-graph is obtained*
- *Then we list the candidate aspects from the V-graph*


list objectives
root goal
soft goals
decompose
correlate
resolve conflict
goals
soft goals
tasks
No
Yes
No conflict
correlation
decompose
goals
soft goals
tasks
No
Yes
Consistent
decompose
No
Yes
Satisfied & satisficed
V model
goals
soft goals
tasks
list aspects
aspects

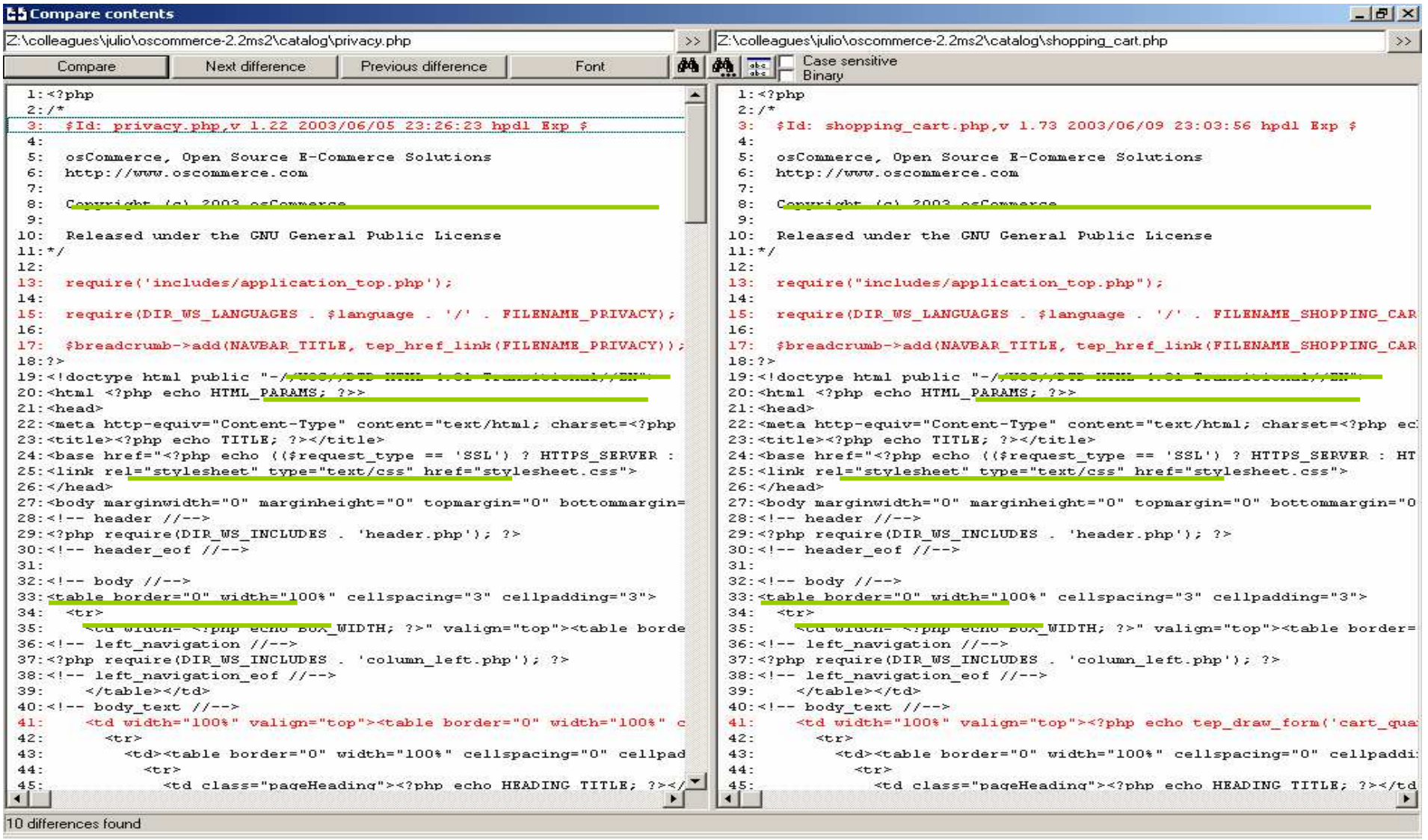
3.3 A Case Study

- Medi@Shop adapted from literature:

  Castro, Kolp, Mylopoulos, Towards requirements-driven information systems engineering: the Tropos project, Journal of Information Systems, 2002.
  Can we find aspects from early requirements?
- osCommerce studied from an LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP) Open-Source project: (http://www.oscommerce.com)
  Do they manifest in the developed software?

osCommerce (version 2.2m2)

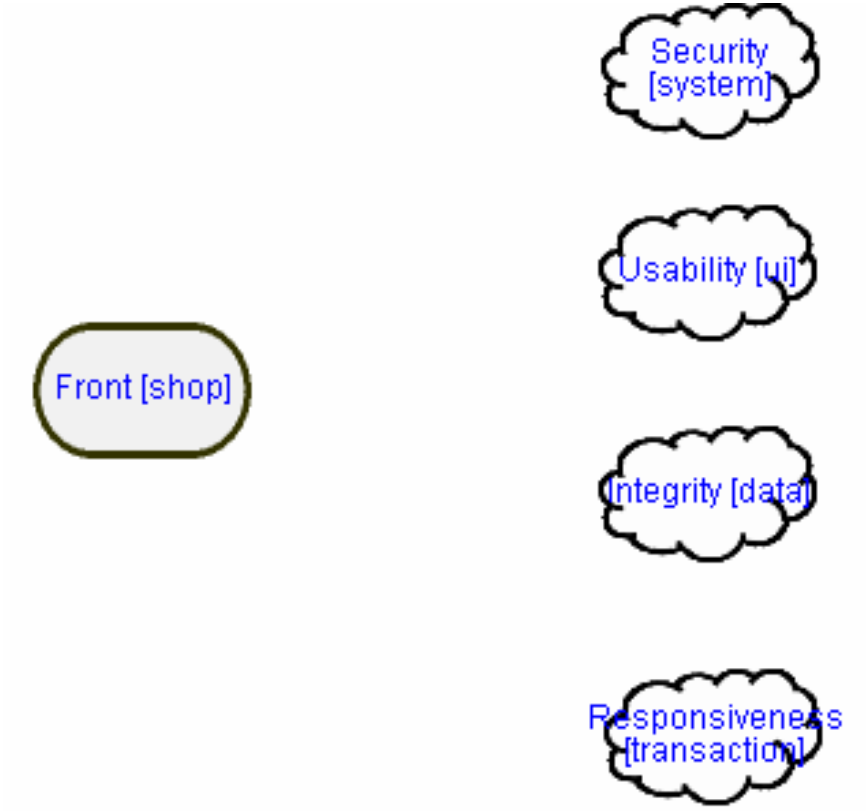
Duplications in code



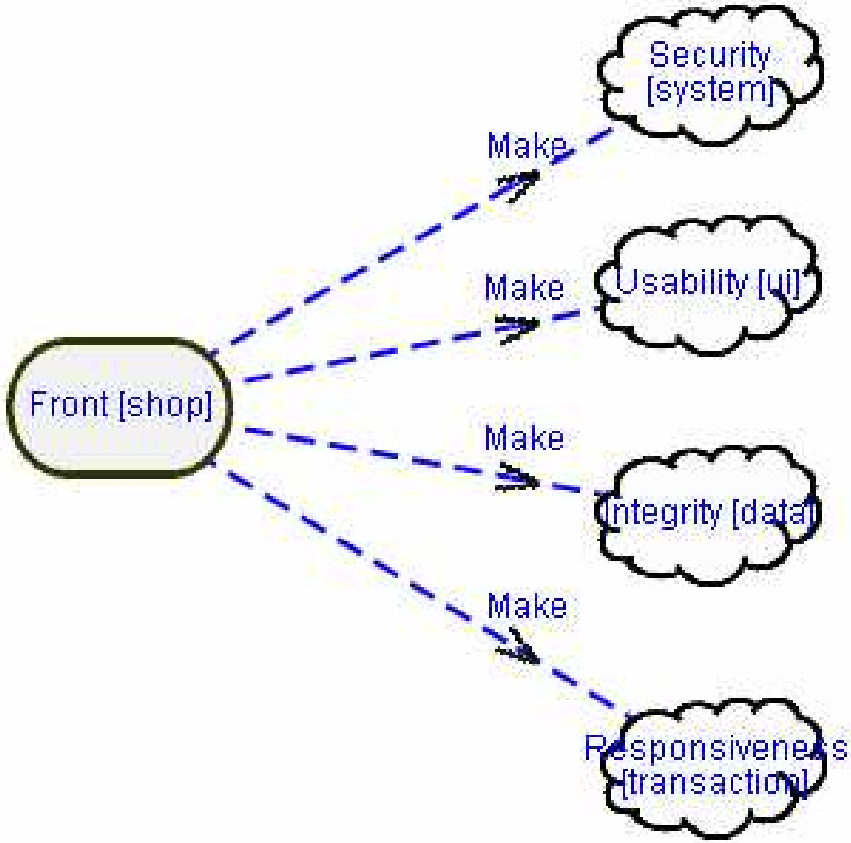
Candidate code aspects in the code Clone detection (by Semantic Design,Inc)

LOC	#clones	Code description	Need refactoring?
1	319	require($path . $file);	No
1	260	echo $expression;	No
559	2	class email;	No
2	292	define ($variable, $value);	No
76	2	class mime;	No
4	67	messageStack->add ($error);	Yes (NFR)
15	15	Postal code zone check	Yes (FR)
22	10	require(application_top.php); SSL check	Yes (FR/NFR)
3	64	Set HTML head CHARSET	Yes (NFR)

3.4 Identifying goal aspects
Correlate initial goals and softgoals

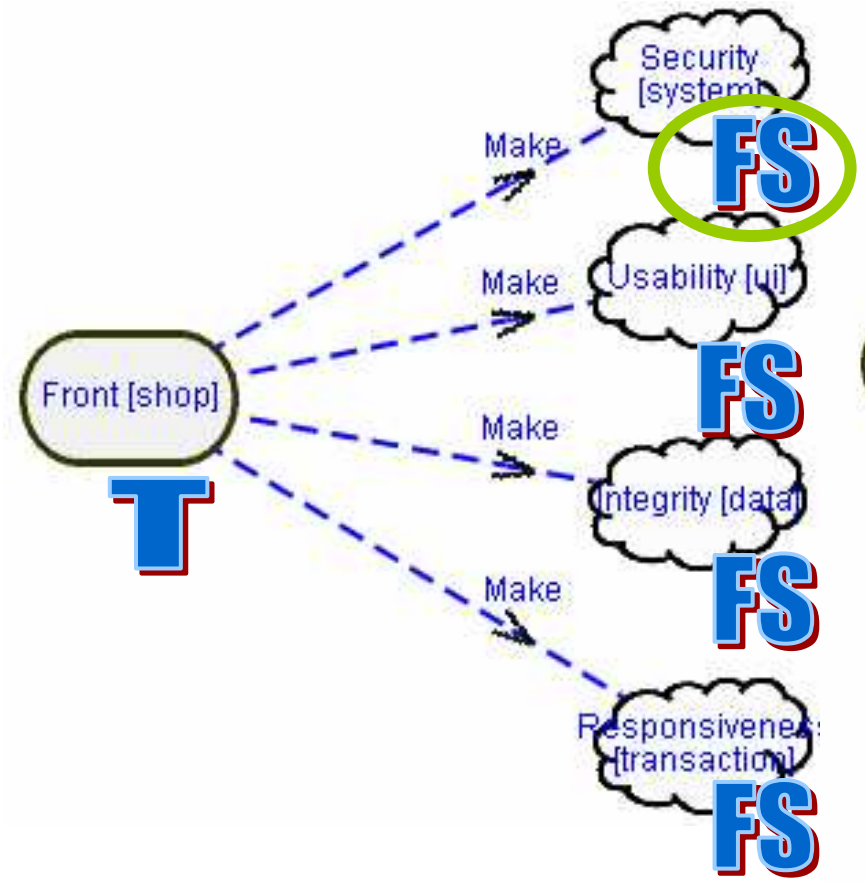


T0

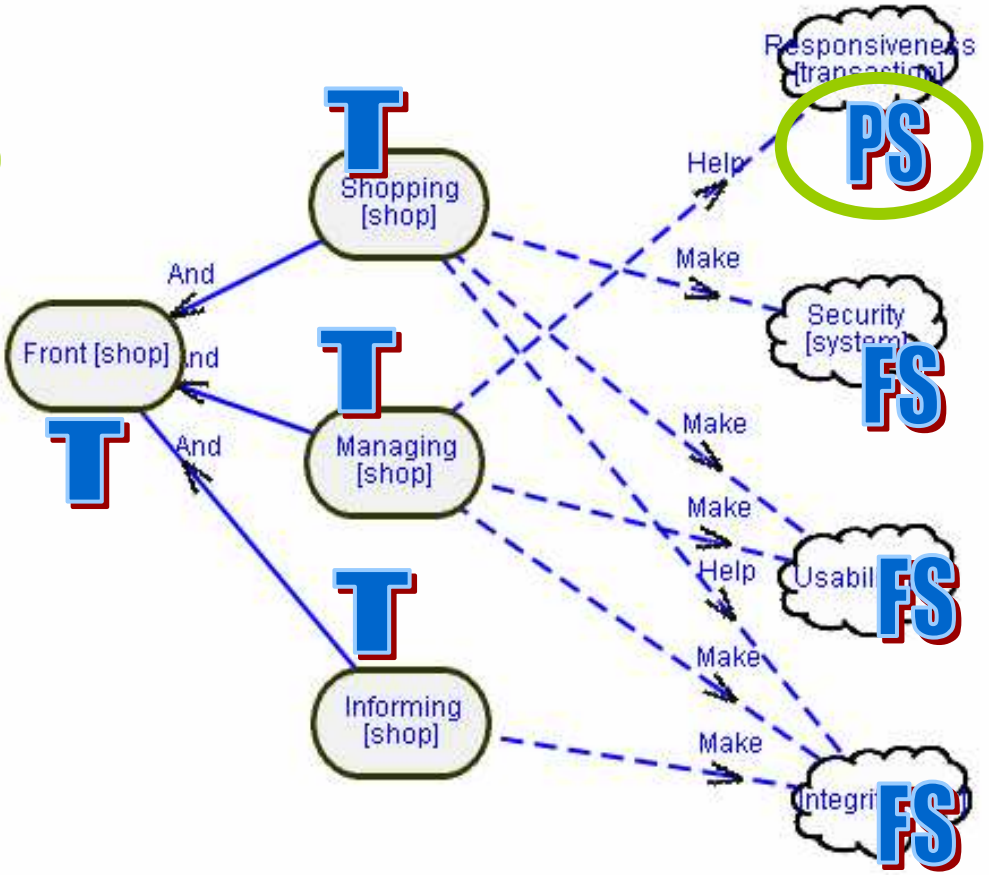


T1

Inconsistent decomposition

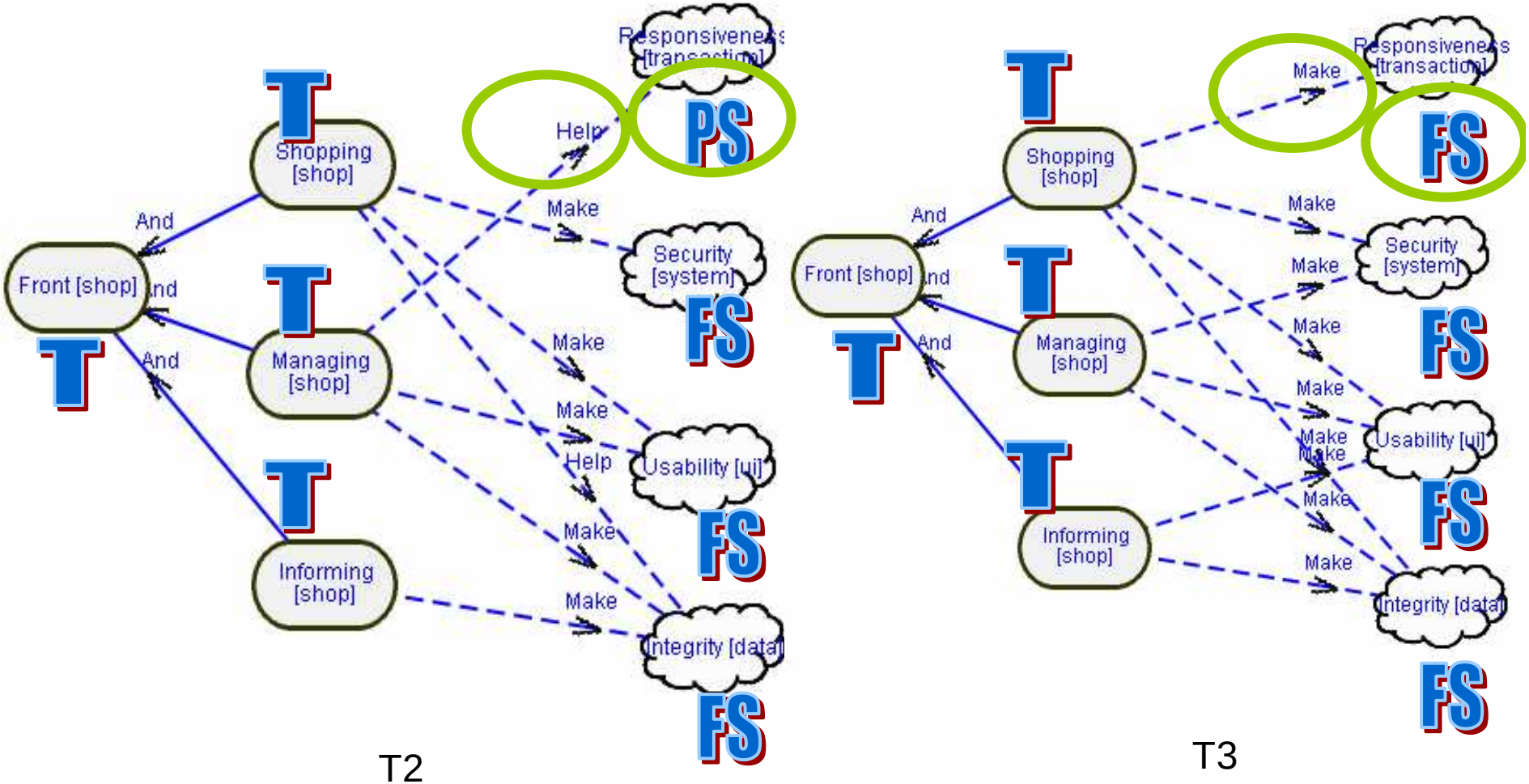


T1

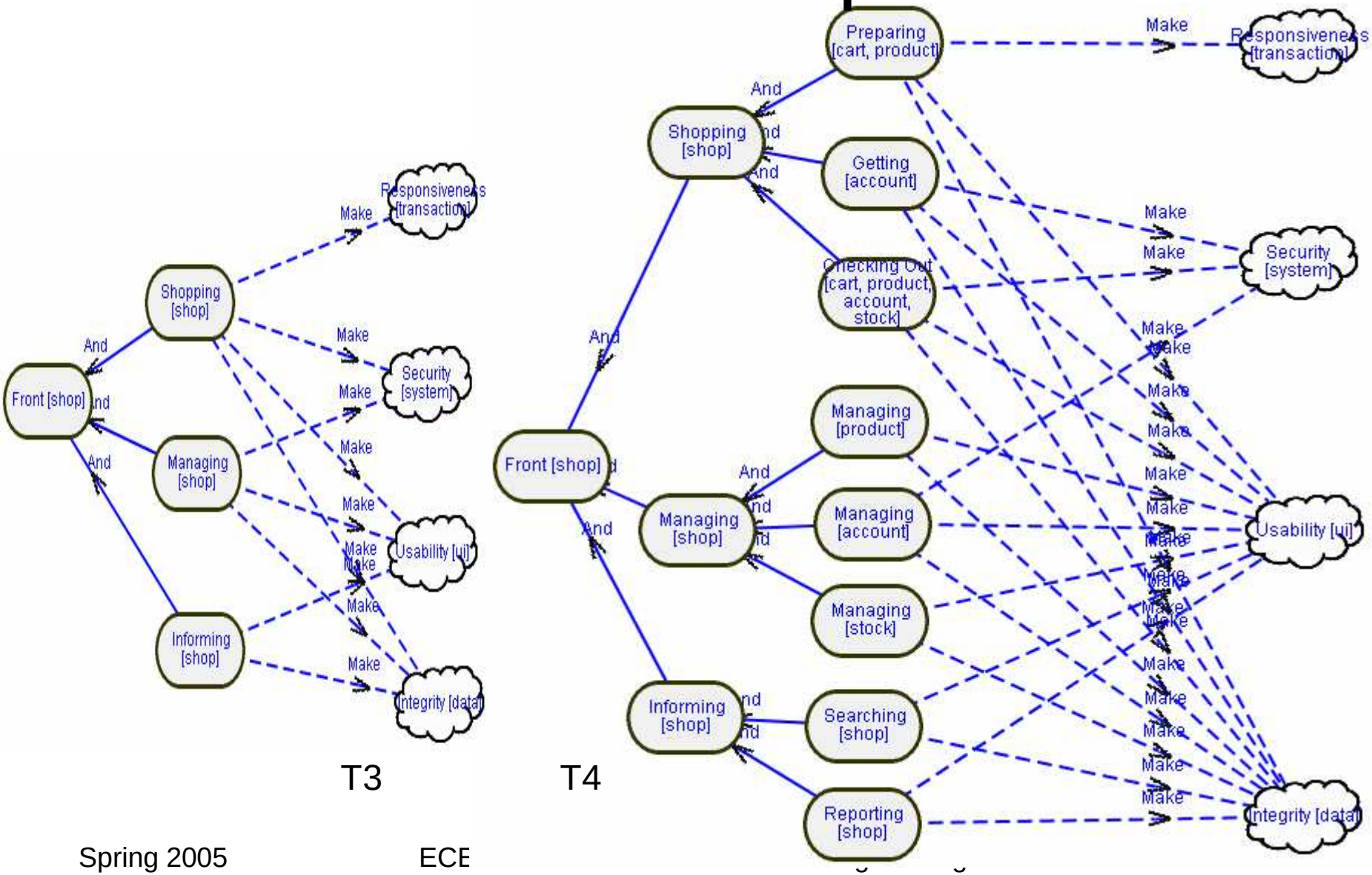


T2

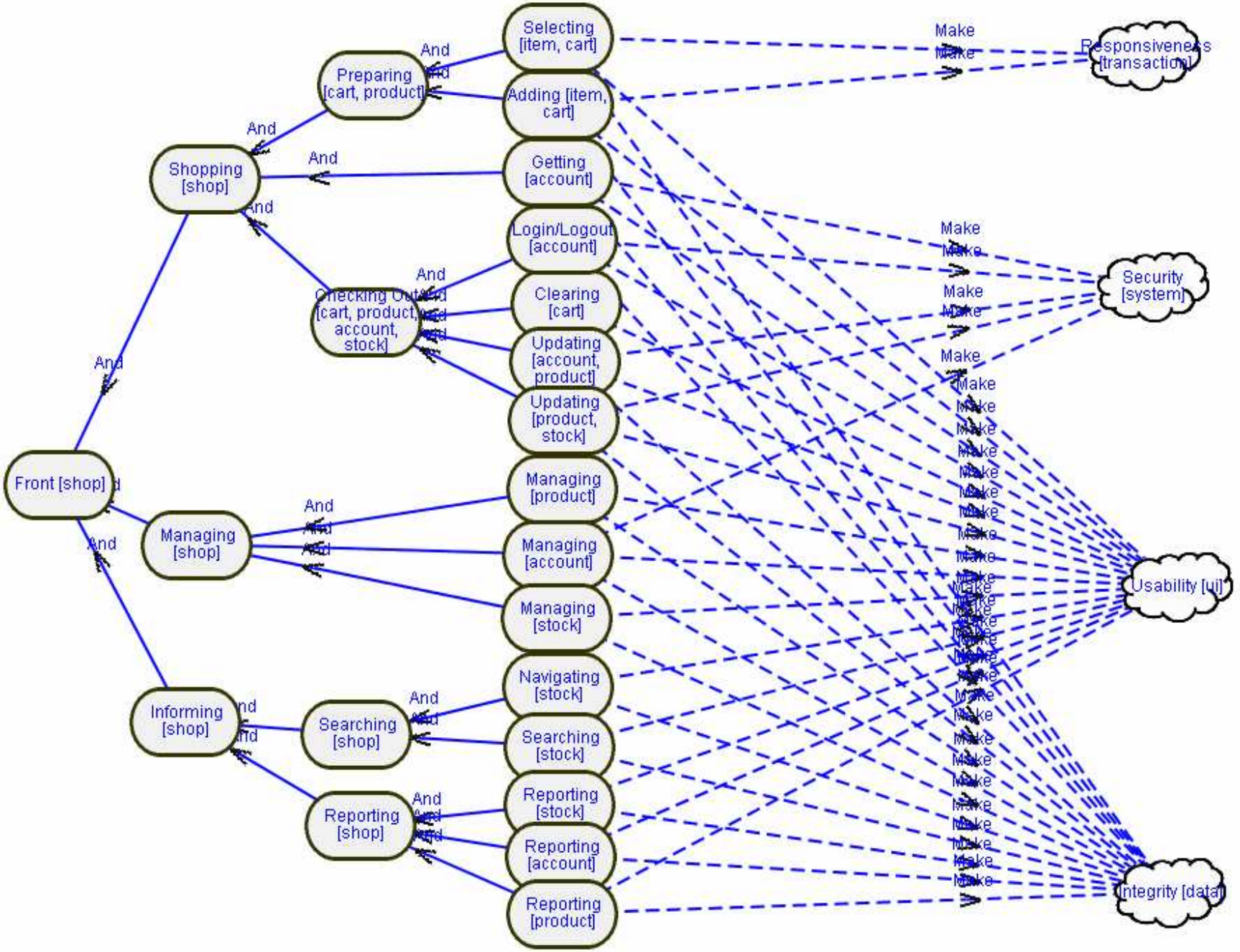
Resolving inconsistency

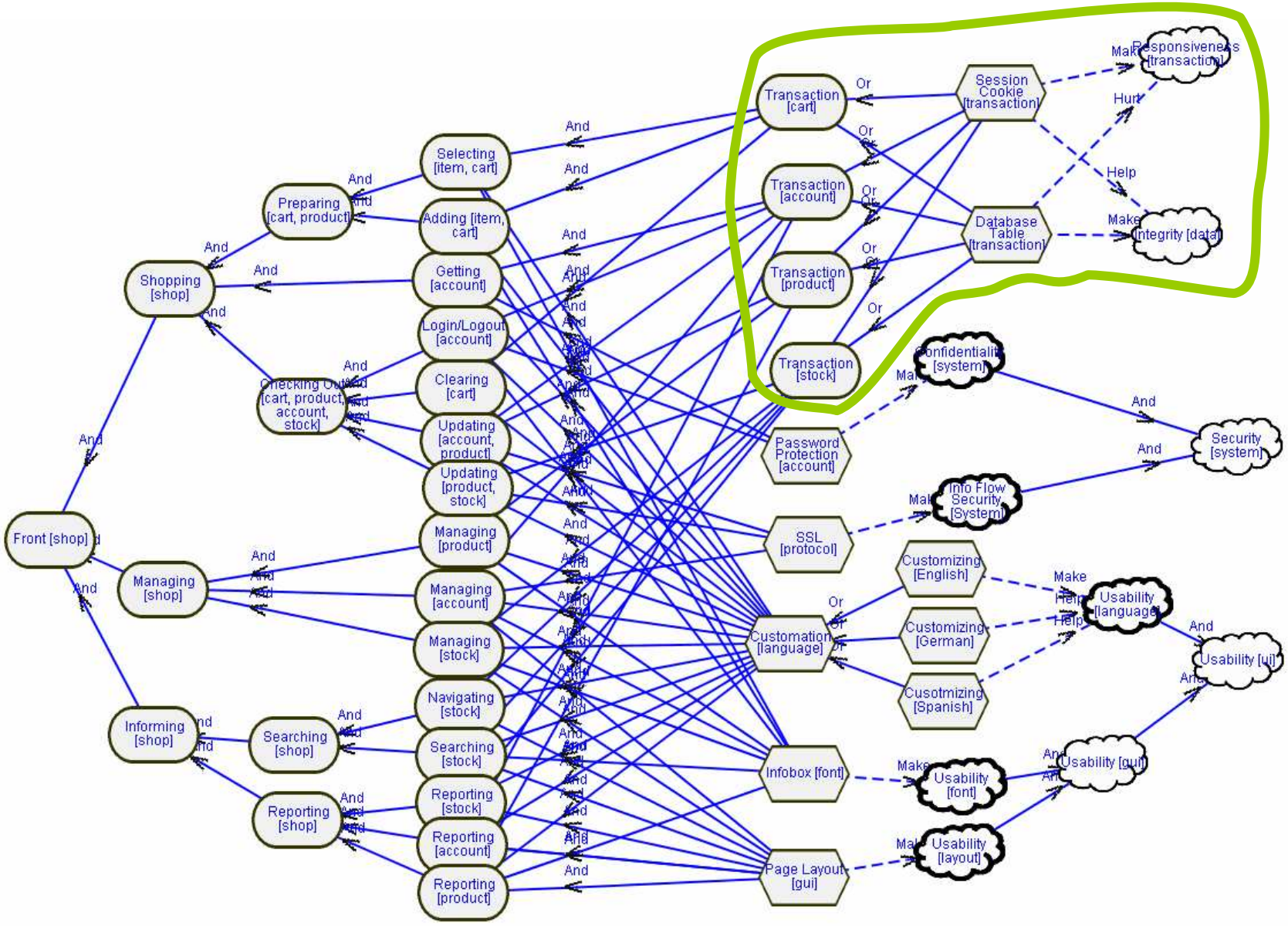


Further decomposition



T3 T4


Front [shop]
Shopping [shop]
Managing [shop]
Informing [shop]
Preparing [cart, product]
Checking Out [cart, product, account, stock]
Searching [shop]
Reporting [shop]
Selecting [item, cart]
Adding [item, cart]
Getting [account]
Login/Logout [account]
Clearing [cart]
Updating [account, product]
Updating [product, stock]
Managing [product]
Managing [account]
Managing [stock]
Navigating [stock]
Searching [stock]
Reporting [stock]
Reporting [account]
Reporting [product]
Responsiveness [transaction]
Security [system]
Usability [ui]
Integrity [data]
And
Make


Front [shop]
Shopping [shop]
Managing [shop]
Informing [shop]
Preparing [cart, product]
Checking Out [cart, product, account, stock]
Searching [shop]
Reporting [shop]
Selecting [item, cart]
Adding [item, cart]
Getting [account]
Login/Logout [account]
Clearing [cart]
Updating [account, product]
Updating [product, stock]
Managing [product]
Managing [account]
Managing [stock]
Navigating [stock]
Searching [stock]
Reporting [stock]
Reporting [account]
Reporting [product]
Transaction [cart]
Transaction [account]
Transaction [product]
Transaction [stock]
Password Protection [account]
SSL [protocol]
Customation [language]
Infobox [font]
Page Layout [gui]
Session Cookie [transaction]
Database Table [transaction]
Responsiveness [transaction]
Integrity [data]
Confidentiality [system]
Security [system]
Into Flow Security [System]
Customizing [English]
Customizing [German]
Cusotmizing [Spanish]
Usability [language]
Usability [ui]
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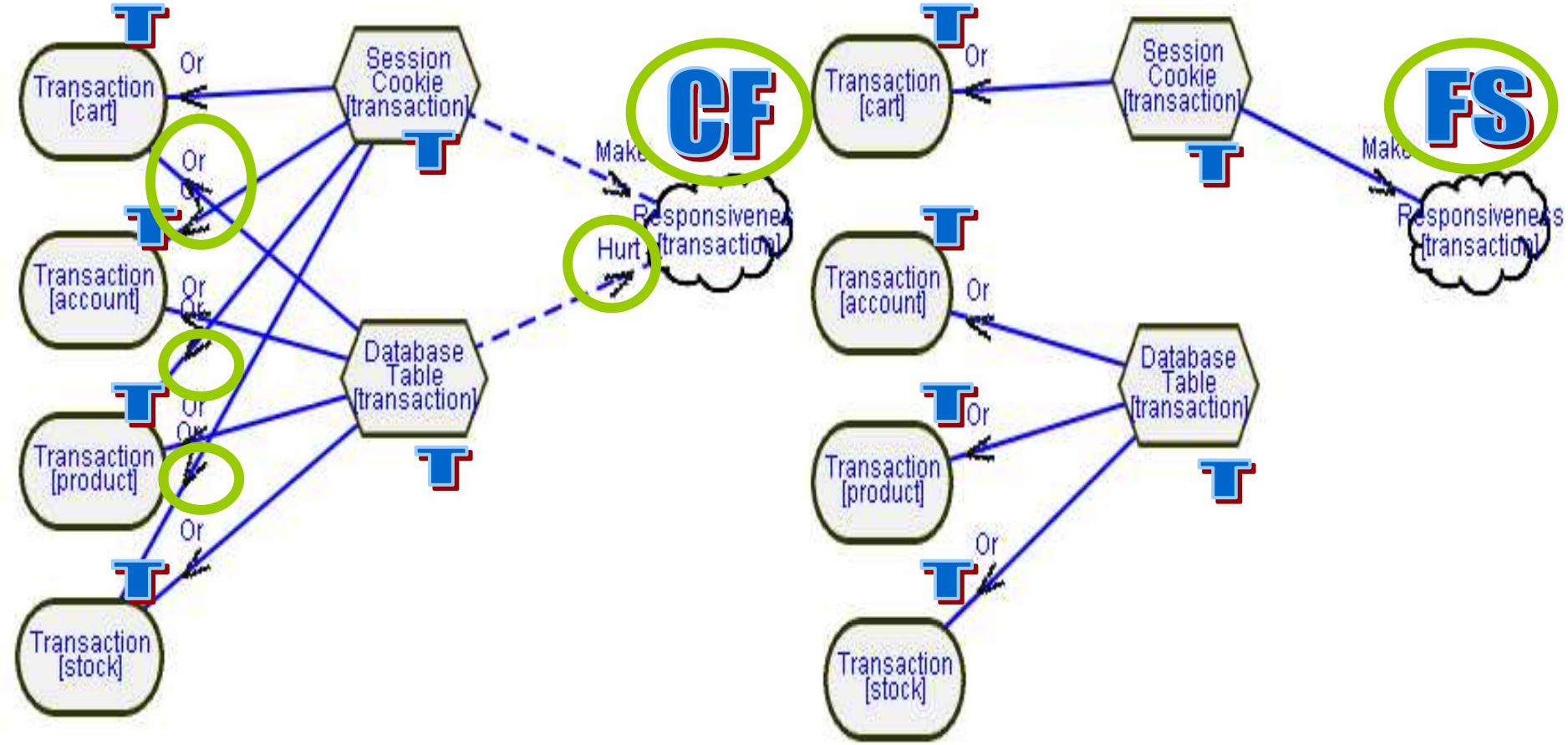
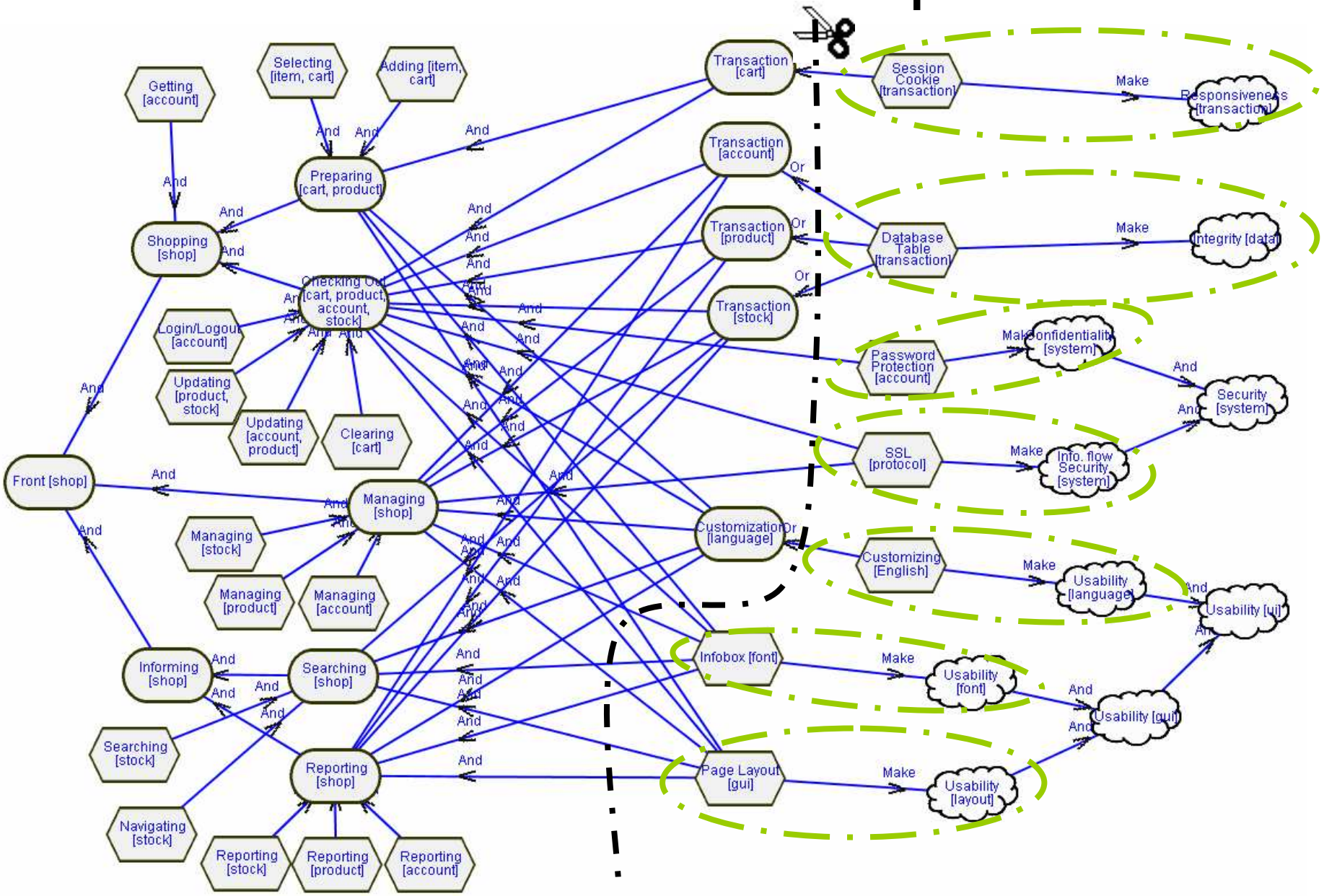
And
Or
Make
Help
Hurt

Resolving Conflicts



T6 T7

Result candidate aspects



Goal Aspects

```
goal aspect Responsiveness[transaction] {
    pointcut transaction():
       Preparing[cart,product]) ||
      CheckingOut[cart, product, account, stock]);
   required () by: transaction() {
      SessionCookie[transaction]();
   }
};
```

- AspectJ-like syntax
- Allow weaving the operationalized tasks with goals specified in the pointcut

Your exercise

- Reverse Engineering
  Identify some aspects in the OpenOME
  - Clone-detection or Callgraph extraction
  - Goal analysis
- Forward Engineering
  - Implement some new NFR through AspectJ

4. Summary

- The concepts of aspect-orientation
- The practise of AOP, AOSD, AORE, AOSR
- A Case study of AORE

Further readings

[AOP] G. Kiczales, J. Lamping, A. Mendhekar, C. Maeda, C. Lopes, J.-M. Loingtier, and J. Irwin. “Aspect oriented programming”. *LNCS*, 1241:220--242, Oct. 1997.

[AORefactoring] C. Zhang, H.-A. Jacobsen. “Refactoring Middleware with Aspects”. TPDS 14(1):1058-1073. 2003

[AOMining] C. Zhang, H.-A. Jacobsen. “PRISM is research in Aspect Mining”. OOPSLA, 2004.

[AORE] Y. Yu, J.C. Leite, J. Mylopoulos. “From goals to aspects: discovering aspects from goal models”. *RE’04*, 2004.

What's next …

- A tutorial on aspect-oriented programming tools
  - AspectJ
  - Eclipse/AJDT
  - Visualizing Aspects
  - Aspect mining tool
- A lecture on (aspect-oriented) Software Reuse
  - Q7 in the OpenOME